Development of mining industry

668. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consistent with Indian economy, the mining industry is also growing at rapid speed;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign technology is essential to generate 13-14 per cent mining growth required to meet the GDP of 9-10 per cent;

(c) if so, whether Government proposes to allow Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for value added projects in power, steel and aluminium plants; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (d) As per index of industrial production maintained by the Central Statistical Organization the mining sector recorded a growth of 5.4% in the year 2006-07 as against a growth of 1% in 2005-06. Private investment, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has been allowed into the mineral sector with the enunciation of National Mineral Policy in 1993, and further investment would attract State-of-art technology to generate higher growth in exploration and mining. FDI up to 100% under the automatic route is allowed for power (except atomic energy), Steel and Alumina Plants.

Impact of privatization of BALCO on labour

669. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 634 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Labour has submitted its inquiry report about BALCO;

(b) if so, the details of the report; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) to (c) While furnishing reply to Unstarred Question No. 634 for answer on 5th March, 2007, it was *inter alia* stated that further action will be taken only after receipt of the Report from the Ministry of Labour. This part of the answer was treated as an Assurance. The Implementation Report in respect of the aforesaid assurance has been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs by the Ministry of Mines on 15.11.2007. However, the details are furnished below:—

Ministry of Labour and Employment in their comments dated 4.10.2007 has observed that the views expressed by the author of the research study titled 'Impact of Privatisation on Labour: A study of BALCO Disinvestment' are of the concerned researcher and do not necessarily represent the views of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (VVGNLI) or of the Ministry of Labour and Employment. As far as violation of labour laws is concerned, on examination of the report, no specific cases of violation of labour laws were pointed out in the study report.